

DENNIS A. CARDOZA
18TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HORTICULTURE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK, DAIRY AND POULTRY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONSERVATION, CREDIT, ENERGY AND RESEARCH

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0518

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June 22, 2009

The Honorable José Serrano
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
B-300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Emerson:

I write to request that your committee include full funding of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program when you mark up the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill tomorrow. Specifically, I am asking you to return HIDTA funding to 2009 levels of \$234 million. This program is critical for my district and the state of California, and its full funding is imperative for fighting the production of methamphetamine and marijuana production in my district.

The 2010 HIDTA budget cuts \$14 million in discretionary funds that are used to support the marijuana eradication efforts on public lands, the domestic highway enforcement program, pharmaceutical diversion programs, and the indoor cultivation of marijuana program, as well as others. Of the \$14 million in discretionary funding, the four HIDTAs in California receive over \$3 million, \$2.4 million of which goes to the Central Valley HIDTA. These funds are used for public lands eradication projects, including \$1 million toward California's Campaign Against Marijuana Planting program, and \$350,000 for direct support to Valley sheriffs. This discretionary funding and all of these programs are vital to the effectiveness of the Central Valley HIDTA.

Cutting the program's discretionary spending will significantly hamper the local, state, and federally coordinated law enforcement efforts to fight drug production in the Central Valley at a time when methamphetamine and marijuana production is increasing in the region. In addition, these cuts will disproportionately impact the state of California, which is on the front lines of

the U.S. fight against drug production and trafficking. That is why I urge your committee to restore HIDTA funding to 2009 levels of \$234 million.

I look forward to your prompt consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dennis Cardoza".

Dennis Cardoza

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Cardoza".